

REMARKS

Independent claims 1, 5, and 10 have been amended with the subject matter as originally set forth in claims 9 and 13. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claims 1, 5, and 10 do not reflect any new subject matter not previously considered by the Examiner.

As amended, claims 1, 5, and 10 provide for a club head in which the front face and the heel face each define respective face planes which intersect. The intersecting planes allow the varied angle between the heel and the face of the club to establish, in whole or in part, the club loft and/or lie angle of the club.

With respect to the Examiner's previous comments directed to the subject matter in claim 13, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is not rendered unpatentable by either the Huang or Koide references. Neither reference, singly or in combination, suggests Applicant's claimed relationship between the heel face and the front face of the club head. The claimed subject matter allows for a more versatile club head to be provided in which the club head can be used to determine the loft and/or lie angle. Heretofore, lie angles and club loft angles are varied by changes in the hosel placement and hosel shape. Further, the angled heel face facilitates improved air flow across the heel face during a club swing allowing greater club head speed.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references fail to provide for a club head having intersecting planes defined by the club front face and club heel face.

By way of the above amendment, Applicant has set forth new claims 16 through 18 which correspond to various embodiments as seen in reference to Figures 14 through 18. Support for the claims can be found in reference to the Figures along with the written description beginning on page 13, line 22 and extending through page 14, line 9.

Specifically, claim 16 sets forth a gap defined beneath the heel relative to the main body of the club. Claim 17 provides that the heel has an upper edge and a lower edge which are parallel, the heel further have a height less than a height of the main

club head. Claim 18 is directed to the club head where a lower edge of the club face extends beneath a lower edge of the heel face and are in parallel planes.

Applicant respectfully submits that the new claims 16 through 18 are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reason that they depend from an allowable independent claim. Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter as seen in the referenced claims is not taught or suggested by the combination of references.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that the reduced dimensions of the heel as claimed along with the heel face define an intersecting plane with the club face both allow for a club head having improved aerodynamic properties. With respect to the subject matter in dependent claims 16 through 18, the subject matter of these claims all reflects a gap and/or a reduced height to the heel portion such that improved air resistance is achieved during a club swing. Further, the heel dimensions reduce the likelihood of the heel striking the turf during a swing.

Inasmuch as all outstanding issues raised by the Examiner have been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and action to such effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at his/her convenience should only minor issues remain after consideration of the present Amendment, to permit early resolution of same.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-3172.

Respectfully submitted,

J. BENNETT MULLINAX, LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.B. Mullinax', written in a cursive style.

J. Bennett Mullinax

Reg. No. 36,221